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1. Original technical plans for the Danube-Black Sea Canal were made by Engineer Oprisan Iarca. He was arrested for delaying the work on the canal after the first year, and was replaced by a fervent Communist engineer named Comino who is still in charge of the work.
2. Much materiel was produced locally and some came from the USSR. Nothing ever arrived on time. Some equipment was made in Germany or satellite countries and then repainted to make it look like Soviet-made materiel. Workmen are amused when they discover the original markings under badly applied paint. The markings usually found are "Orestein & Koppel, A. G." and "A. L. Hoepfner, Dortmund."
3. The following equipment has been used:
 - 92 excavators (25 German made)
 - 297 drawbridges
 - 150 engines
 - 1,530 trucks
 - 3,150 open freight cars
 - 113 tractors
 - 12 motor compressors
 - 10 tow lines
 - 12 elevators
4. There have been many delays and the canal is still not more than a quarter finished. At Medgidia the rock was found to be so hard that the canal could be cut only four or five meters deep. Presumably renewed effort will be made later.

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5. The political director of workers on the canal is Stancu Marin. In charge of labor is Marcel Grumberg, a Jew and convinced Communist who enjoys the complete confidence of the Communist authorities. New Soviet personnel have been coming in lately, but individuals have not been identified.
6. An electric power center has been built at Porta Alba. A group of about 20 four-story houses has been built at Topraisar to accommodate canal personnel. Transportation is provided for them.
7. There are two main camps for political prisoners employed in the canal. One is at Cernavoda. It is on a hill east of the cement factory. The camp has ten barracks, one sanitary station, electric light, three dining halls. The prisoners must eat without knives. There are said to be 2,000 male prisoners and 300 women. The other is the Valea Larga camp, along the Black Sea, north of Canara. This has 30 barracks and about 7,000 prisoners. Still another camp, two km from the fishing village of Navodari, is designated as "Lagarul de Munca No. 604", and is a headquarters of some kind.
8. Though the canal is a synonym of hell for any worker, certain efforts have been made to help the morale at least of those who are not prisoners. In three years, there have been 560 theatrical performances of one kind or another, many of them just motion pictures. Three trucks carry Soviet films to areas where there would otherwise be no movies, and five motion picture theaters have been built. There is a special canal newspaper for the workers, entitled Canalul Dunarea - Marea Neagra.
9. There are sixteen dispensaries, four hospitals, and three maternity centers. Fifty-five workers have received decorations. New towns are being built from Cernavoda to Cape Midia, all of them small. Such, at least, were the claims made by speakers at a meeting in the Party Center in Bucharest, about May 1952, celebrating the third anniversary of the original decision to build the canal.

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